

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COTONO 00080 171406Z  
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 H-02 HA-05 /035 W  
-----030689 171410Z /47

O R 171340Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
TO AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC 0357

UNCLAS COTONOU 0080

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CASC, DM, US  
BBJ: COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS IN BENIN: DEPARTURE OF LEONARD R.  
BENNETT

1. LEONARD R. BENNETT, AN AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO HAS ARRANGED PRIORITY BERTHING FOR SEVERAL FIRMS SHIPPING MATERIAL THROUGH COTONOU, HAS FACED DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY A NIGERIAN RIVAL WHO HAS APPARENTLY SABOTAGED SOME OF BENNETT'S BUSINESS DEALINGS IN BENIN THROUGH JUDICIOUSLY PLACED INDUCEMENTS. IN LATE DECEMBER, NIGERIAN WAS ABLE TO HAVE BENNETT INCARCERATED FOR TWO DAYS WITHOUT CHARGES BEING PREFERRED. EMBASSY AND BENNETT'S LAWYER ABLE TO SECURE HIS RELEASE. GOVERNMENT APOLOGIZED FOR PREVIOUS ARREST AS "ERROR".

2. FOR LOME: RATHER THAN BECOME VICTIM OF ANOTHER "ERROR" --A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY GIVEN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS -- BENNETT HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE BENIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR TOGO, ARRIVING AFTERNOON JAN 17. BENNETT WILL CONTACT EMBASSY LOME AND EXPLAIN DETAILS OF SITUATION. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIRMING HIS ARRIVAL IN LOME.

3. FOR DEPARTMENT: REQUEST YOU CONTACT MRS. BENNETT IN STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, TO INFORM HER OF HUSBAND'S WHEREABOUTS  
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(HE LEFT BY LAND SINCE DEPARTING DELEGATIONS WILL USE ALL AIRPLANE SPACE). MRS. BENNETT CAN BE REACHED AT FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 203-322-2318 OR 203-329-0408. WE WILL PROVIDE FULL DETAILS OF BENNETT SAGA SEPTEL. THOMPSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978COTONO00080  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
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**Subject:** COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS IN BENIN: DEPARTURE OF LEONARD R. BENNETT  
**TAGS:** CASC, DM, US, (BENNETT, LEONARD R)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014